

Whilst every care has been taken in the design and compilation of this map & notes, Unlock cannot accept any liability arising from any inaccuracy within this document.

**Busy Roads!**  
Some roads on this year's walk are busy. Please keep to the side of the road indicated and use pedestrian crossings where possible.

**Unlock team & question!**  
**A** St Thomas' (C of E)  
**B** Lighthouse Methodist  
**C** Grange Park URC  
**D** Emmanuel (C of E)  
**E** Upper Clapton URC  
**F** Stoke Newington Baptist  
**G** Our Lady of Good Counsel (RC)

**Seven Sisters** (Victoria Line)  
Change for mainline, 3 stops to Stoke Newington.  
**Finchley Park** (Piccadilly Line)  
Bus 106 to Stoke Newington station or Bouverie Rd.  
**Isaac Watts Mound:**  
In the north-east corner of Abney Park Cemetery, it was originally an island in Hackney Brook. Isaac Watts is said to have spent many hours in contemplation here. The mound is at the far end of the cemetery from the Church Street entrance. From the main gates follow the path around to the right, diverging from the path to the chapel.

**St James St. Walthamstow**  
Bus 158 to Checkpoint B.  
**Blackhorse Rd** (Victoria Line)  
Bus 158 to Checkpoint B.  
**St Thomas' (C of E)**  
**Stoke Newington**  
**Clapton**  
**Walthamstow Marshes**  
**Emmanuel (C of E)**  
**Upper Clapton URC**  
**Stoke Newington Baptist**  
**Our Lady of Good Counsel (RC)**

# The Unlock London Sponsored Walk No.19 - Saturday 20th April 2002

**Hackney?** Hackney's original motto means 'justice is our tower'. The oldest surviving building in Hackney is the tower of St John's church: a symbol of persistent strength. How strong are towers today? Our route takes us through Upper Clapton and Stoke Newington rather than the centre of Hackney (where the strong tower stands).



**Abney Park**  
Abney Park House stood near to the Church St. entrance to the cemetery. Built in the 1690's by Thomas Gunston, it was passed to his sister who was married to Sir Thomas Abney, a Lord Mayor of London. A family friend was Isaac Watts (1674-1748) who wrote many famous hymns, including 'O God our help in ages past' and 'When I survey the wondrous cross'. Recovering from illness, Watts moved in with his friends and stayed for 36 years until his death.  
Abney Park Cemetery was established in 1840 (and the house demolished in 1843). It was non-denominational and distinctive for its association with non-conformists. It was also unique at the time for being laid out as a superb arboretum. Eventually it was sold to Hackney Council in 1978 for £1. It is now managed by a Trust.



**Stoke Newington**  
Almost opposite the Church Street entrance to the cemetery stands a house numbered 95. It is here that Daniel Defoe wrote many of his famous works including Robinson Crusoe. He lived there from 1714, having married a local girl Mary Tuffley. He had been a student at a non-conformist academy at Newington Green. Fellow students included Samuel Wesley and Thomas Cruse - maybe the memory of that name came in later?  
Stoke Newington Quakers have been prominent in its history, including Joseph Jackson Lister, the microscopist, and his sister Mary, who founded an invalid asylum in 1825. This moved to 187 High Street in 1830, one of three large 18th century houses that can still be seen near the main entrance to the cemetery. In 1909 this asylum became the Stoke Newington Home Hospital for women. Evacuated during the 2nd World War, it became part of the Lister Hospital, Hitchin (expanded in 1970 to the modern Lister Hospital in Stevenage).

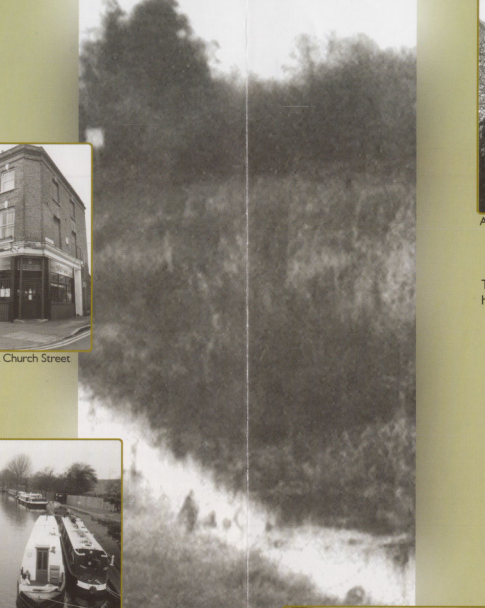
**Hackney - watering place?**  
Because of the course of the River Lea, Hackney has been more of a riverside community than Leyton. During its history the river has been important for commercial, recreational and even ecclesiastical reasons! In 1641 a radical religious group of 're-baptists' emerged during the Civil War; they gathered at the River Lea for a ceremony of mutual immersion (some allegedly baptised on horseback).

By 1750 Hackney was a popular resort for swimming and water-sport. The next century saw the rapid development of mills and timber warehouses with access for barges. The river has also long been used for creating reservoirs, piped water schemes and water treatment plants. The Coppermill Lane area provides evidence of the river's importance today, with its marina, wild life reserves and parking spaces for visitors to enjoy the open space of the marshland within the city.

**Does Eastenders reflect Hackney?**  
The programme is careful not to identify Walford with any specific community, but does certainly reflect the life of East End communities on both sides of the River Lea. Hackney's most successful newspaper, founded in 1864, is the Hackney Gazette, which has a counterpart of similar name in Walford!

This community is distinctive and very visible, especially on Saturdays - Hasidic Jews constitute around 25% of the population in Hackney's northern wards. Their ancestors emigrated from 18th century Poland, and their dress reflects their determination to identify with these aristocratic origins. They represent an orthodox branch of Judaism and appear from the outside to demonstrate resistance to integration, a tight-knit and insulated community within the community. It would be good to find out whether there are signs of their isolation reducing.

## ...Crossing the Marshes - The Great Divide...



**Manufacturing industry - Hackney**  
The tradition in Hackney was for small industrial concerns to offer employment to local people - much more so than in Leyton, which is rather more residential. In 1901 it is reported that 15,000 people were employed in Hackney in clothing and footwear manufacture, and over 5,000 in cabinet-making and associated trades. During the 20th century local industry was decimated.  
Lesney products, founded in 1947, experimented with detailed models. This led to Matchbox model vehicles, selling originally at 1s.6d. each. By 1982 Lesney was Hackney's largest business employer with a 1500 strong workforce. In the following year competition from abroad forced the company into liquidation and the Hackney factory stood empty for over ten years before being converted into flats.

**The Hasidic Jewish Community**  
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**Leyton Orient**  
Leyton is perhaps most widely known for its football team that plays at Brisbane Road (though not on April 20th), just off Leyton High Road, about 1/4 mile south of our checkpoint C church. Surprisingly the team originated in Homerton, the other side of the River Lea, though draws its support mainly nowadays from the Leyton side of the marshes. The club's origins were at Homerton College in 1881. It became Orient in 1889 and Clapton Orient in 1903 when it turned professional. Dog racing took over Clapton stadium in 1928, so the team played at Lea Bridge until 1937.



**The Barclays of Leyton**  
The Barclay family famously had a large house in Leyton - they became famous by founding Barclays Bank in the City of London. The family name is still widely remembered in Leyton, by place names and charitable foundations. There were strong Christian connections, both locally and in their original ownership of the country mansion that later became the High Leigh conference centre at Hoddesdon in Herts, further upstream on the River Lea.

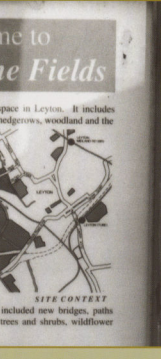
**Leyton Records**  
Around the end of the nineteenth century Leyton claimed to be the fastest growing town in the country. The coming of the railways from the middle of the century began the process that turned the rural village (the 'tun' on the River Lea) into a suburban dormitory for clerks and workmen mostly employed outside Leyton. The population increased from 27,000 in 1881 to 63,000 in 1891. Much of the older housing in Leyton dates from the period 1870 - 1910. Another Leyton record concerns AV Roe, who is said in 1910 to have achieved the first manned British flight, above the Walthamstow marshes.



**Lea Bridge Gateway**  
Over the last five years £24 million has been invested to make Lea Bridge Gateway a better area to live and work. The largest single project was the relief road that has given businesses better access to the road network and reduced the commercial traffic using residential roads. A community group network has been established, physical improvements have been made to community buildings, new partnerships have been forged between the community, businesses, council, police and Lea Valley Regional Park.

Support to local businesses has created new job opportunities and improved training facilities. The Agenda 21 project has worked closely with residents and over 50 local groups to develop better links and to help strengthen the local community. The churches have been variously involved in this urban regeneration programme and have together set-up 'Care Leyton' - an organisation of volunteers offering neighbourly help in the emergencies and difficulties that arise in daily living.

Crossing the river has been an important historical feature. Two ferries were in operation, the more famous being Jeremy's, just north of the present Lea Bridge Rd crossing. The ferry was phased out after the establishment in 1757 of the Lea Bridge and Road Trust, which operated a toll bridge. The second Lea Bridge was built in 1820.



**Welcome to Marsh Lane Fields**  
This is the largest public open space in Leyton. It includes sports pitches, open grassland, hedgerows, woodland and the tree-lined Dagenham Brook. Formerly part of the Lammas Lands of Leyton Parishes, the area became publicly owned in the early 1900's and was set aside for the recreation of local people.  
Recent improvements to the appearance, character and wildlife habitats of the Fields have included new bridges, paths and seating, large scale planting of trees and shrubs, wildflower meadows and information boards.